

How I revived my Krishna Consciousness & was initiated into The Hare Krishna Mahamantra.

By Bhakta Anirudh C R [New Delhi, India]

The Following events happened with me since the Month of October 2006.

1] A Book Named “Some Guidelines towards The Goal Supreme/Inner Life” Written by Swami Gokulananda, a Monk of the Ramakrishna Mission Order Landed in my house from Some Junk Heap of a Neighbour. In this book, the Significance of Mantra Diksha by a bonafide Guru and Japa Sadhana was given so much importance that I visited The Ramakrishna Mission Order in New Delhi. Co-incidentally, The Author Swami Gokulananda was the Secretary of The Delhi Branch. He clarified that he was not in a position to give Mantra Diksha and Diksha could be given only by the president & Vice President of the Math who visited the Delhi branch once in a year and one had to read the Philosophy and Pass the examination of the Order before one was initiated. Hence I registered my name and purchased the necessary books of the order and came home.

2] For the Last 20 Years I was in possession of a book named Japa Yoga, written by Swami Sivananda of Rishikesh whose reference H H Bhakti Vikas Swami [ISKCON Guru] has given in his Book “Brahmacharya In Krishna Consciousness” in which the entire process of Japa Yoga the various mantras etc has been given according to one’s Ishta Devata. For Many Years, I tried to chant certain mantras like Om Namō Narayana[Being a Sri Vaishnava], Om Sri Krishnaya namah, Even Hare Krishna Mahamantra etc but found that after a while I could not concentrate on the mantra nor keep up the chanting. After this I Ran a Search on the Internet, because the name of the Press that had printed Swami Sivananda’s Book intrigued me which is: The Yoga Vedanta Forest Academy Press, Shivananda nagar, Rishikesh. This Search[<http://www.sivanandaonline.org> & dlshq.org] resulted in Free PDF Book Downloads of Swami Sivananda’s Works on various branches of Yoga like Karma, Kriya, Raja Yoga, Jnana & Bhakti Yoga Etc. Till date Swami Sivananda has Written Over 635 Books from 1936-1964. His Life History is a Treat To Be read & Cherished Like Srila Prabhupada’s.

The Search also yielded, Information about, a 2 Months Residential, Basic Yoga Vedanta course conducted at the above academy at Sivananda ashram rishikesh for which I instantly downloaded the application form and prospectus and applied immediately for the May-June 2007 course. This was in January 2007. In the Application Form Submitted, a 500 page letter had to be enclosed to The Registrar of the Academy Stating my Spiritual Back grounds, Future actions and purpose of doing the Course, for which I

quoted that I had read over 100 Times Bhagavad Gita “As It Is” written by His Divine Grace A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada From 1995[I was 18 years old then] and had completely obtained disillusionment from Materialistic Life, Being Liberated in the Impersonal Conception of the truth very well knowing that one’s own body is not one’s and that I planned on continuing my work further of Computer Hardware & Networking and Remain a Single celibate{I am One Till This Day] and serve my parents in their old age.

My Admission to the course was confirmed by the Academy & I was very Jubilant as the course involved study of Bhagavad Gita, Patanjali Yoga Sutras, Upanishads, Yoga Asanas, Karma Yoga etc and moreover it was Free For 2 Months[Three Meals a Day & boarding Lodging] at a splendid place Like Rishikesh.

In Between From February 2007 to March 2007 end, I was listening to Certain Audio discourses of Spiritual Guru’s On World Space satellite Radio, where one Guru Named Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, Founder of Isha Foundation [<http://www.ishafoundation.org>] Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu State, India was talking about Spirituality as a Science & by taking to Kriya yoga how he had attained Enlightenment and His talks were very logical akin to Buddhists. The Same Enlightenment I myself, had achieved by simply reading Srila Prabhupada’s Bhagavad Gita As It Is with Lord Krishna Enlightening me from within acting as a “caitya guru”.

He was giving accurate descriptions of how one can find one’s guru, the symptoms, etc which were all very logical & seemed genuine and moreover he had a mesmerizing voice. He was saying that whatever he had attained had come to him by Meditation & Sadhana and not by any Scriptural Reading, He has till date not read The Bhagavad Gita nor does he accept Lord Sri Krishna As The Supreme Personality of Godhead.

Sadhguru's Devastating Logic was Impeccable: "When Krishna Spoke The Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna Over 5000 years Ago, Arjuna did not have a I-pod To Record the whole conversation and are we hearing it now from Krishna's Mouth. In 5000 years Krishna's Message could have been distorted, as before elections, school texts books are changed".

Why Do People want Rama Rajya For India. Don't they see how much suffering and pain Rama Underwent in his own life. Does any women at present would like to have a Man Like Rama as their Husband so that she is kidnapped by Ravana and has to give proof of her chastity by passing through fire.

Sadhguru is a Follower of Saivism+Sakthism+Shoonyavada & has erected a 13.5' Dhyanalinga, The Only Siva Linga for Meditative Purposes in the Whole world which has all the seven chakras Activated akin to Human Body and Locked to prevent energy Dissipation for the next 5000 years. Details can be had from <http://www.dhyanalinga.org>.

I decided to give Sadhguru a shot as he did not seem to be a bogus Guru and since he was offering something more than what Bhagavad Gita Offered, even though my faith in Bhagavad Gita was intact then & further enhanced now, I enrolled for his basic program 28th March-03rd April 2007[Donation Rs 1500/- With Sunday Lunch after initiation] called the 7 day inner engineering program as He was laying too much emphasis on experiencing the truth 1st hand than reading it from Scripture.

This 7 Day program is held in almost all major parts of the India & also In the USA. The Program went off good with Sadhguru's Trained Teachers imparting an Ancient Kriya Yoga process called Shambhavi Mahamudra & Sadhguru himself initiating us into The Shambhavi via Video conferencing. This is a 21 Minute a Day Practice which is aimed at reducing Stress Strain and reduce Sleep Quota To Just 4 Hours a day and has to be done twice for the 1st forty days and there after once everyday.

This I completed successfully, as it involves simple yoga asana's and breathing Techniques. Before the Program Concluded, I was introduced to the Other Higher Programs, of Isha Foundation named Bhava Spandana where one is transported to explosive states of meditateness, and those who had done this program were very much vouching for it. This BSP was scheduled in June 2007 at the Isha Yoga Centre, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. However as I was already admitted to Sivananda Ashram Course I could not go.

I did the above only as a preliminary before leaving for Sivananda ashram on the April 30th 2007. The Basic Yoga Vedanta course went off splendidly at the Sivananda Ashram as It is a True Forest Academy on top of a Hill, with Splendid view of The Ganges flowing down. Even during the Course, In a Indian Philosophy Class Conducted by One Delhi University Professor Named Dr Kanchana Natarajan, I asked her why was it necessary to Read Three Books Like Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads, Vedanta Sutra when Srila Prabhupada's Bhagavad Gita "As It Is" Was Sufficient, To Which She Replied! As to what was the need to Even Study 18 Chapters of Gita, when simply surrendering To Krishna Would Solve all our problems. She challenged me would I be Willing To Surrender To Krishna!

I Simply took this one word from her mouth & returned home successfully having Shed 10 Kgs Weight, due to the heat of summer and the stress of the course. Every Day I was telling my mother that I would simply surrender to Krishna.

I was checking the website of Isha foundation if the next Bhava Spandana Program for Gents In English was scheduled or not and finally on 30th July 2007 learnt that, The BSP In English For Gents was scheduled From 01st Sept 2007-04th Sept 2007. As it was Guru Pooja Day I paid the donation for the BSP [Rs 750/-for 4 days with Food & Boarding at The Ashram]. Tickets were Booked on the Train and all was done.

I reached the Ashram at Coimbatore, & had 1st Hand Darshan of Lord Siva's Dhyanalinga and felt tremendous energy coming from it. Sadhguru says that those who come in the sphere of the DL cannot escape the sowing of the spiritual seed of liberation and this was true. This is a nice place to visit with a 30 feet underground teertha kunda which has a copper tank with 660 kgs floating mercury linga. One can take bath before actually having a Darshan of The Dhyanalinga. I having read Srila Prabhupada's Bhagavad Gita As It Is nearly 100 times and myself being a Sri Vaishnava was a little afraid of Lord Siva being a Krishna Bhakta!

The Bhava Spandana Program Started on the 1st Sept 2007 and I would not have experienced such a nonsensical program, a pure agony for 3 days, A Pure Death Experience, Doing Siva Tandavam, Awakening Kundalini Shakti & Allied nonsense.

Even while Talking to The Other Participants I discussed with them about ISKCON being the Best In Terms of Bhakti Yoga, and as to how they have over 700 temples world wide. Even In a NDTV Program We The People In 2005, About Spirituality and Guru's, One Participant had expressed his view via SMS that all the Present Guru's were all bogus who were charging money from people for their programs having the best of Life's comforts and talking spirituality to others. He had said that the best form of spirituality was to simply Read Bhagavad Gita "As It Is" written by Swami Prabhupada. I had even admired this man and congratulated him for his views which I also felt was the best.

During The Nonsense That was Happening In the Bhava Spandana Program I even re-collected the Above Point and Immediately Thought of Bhakti Vinoda Thakur's Face as Published in the Bhagavad Gita "As It Is".

On the Last day the 4th Sept 2007, before the program was to end, I had the experience of my life[Only Intellectually, As I Lost Interest In the Program

In Between, Considering the Agony & Pain, Wishing It To Simply End] Others Had It Really Experientially, as each one was able to experience every other participant in the program as themselves and before closing we all danced happily to the tune of Sweet Hare Krishna Maha Mantra. One Totally Bewildered Participant Akin To Myself asked the Brahmachari Who had conducted the Program as what was the Lesson or Teaching One had to Learn From Bhava Spandana Program, and asked as to which Bhagavad Gita Edition One Should Read, To Which the Brahmachari Could Not Answer as he himself did not know anything about Vedanta akin to Sadhguru.

In the Common Area after the program was over, I answered this Participant's Question, and asked him to read only Bhagavad Gita "As It Is" Written By His Divine Grace A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and to donate all other editions of Bhagavad Gita which he had to some temple or Library. Kindly See, Even Till This Point I had Not Realised The Fact That Srila A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada was Indeed My Guru.

However The Intense Physical Activity took its toll and I fell sick and returned to Delhi in an absolutely horrible state. I was in hospital for the next 15 days.

I was repeatedly thinking, as to how I could go & attend such a nonsensical program and how a person like Sadhguru who himself had not read the Gita, could have created something so stupid and painful.

As I was contemplating on this over Lunch in a hotel, a poor boy came and asked me to buy him food, I could have said no but something told me otherwise and I asked him to have whatever he wanted. He only had One Dosa and I paid the bill and before I could speak to the boy, the Boy had Vanished! It Seems Krishna was testing me.

I came home & was surfing Madhu pandita's Site Krishna.org when suddenly the realization dawned on me that my spiritual process had indeed started in 1995 from Srila Prabhupada's Bhagavad Gita "As It Is" & that I was in vain running after everyone else other than Srila Prabhupada. I had Just Travelled 5500 Kms to Hear Hare Krishna Maha Mantra which I could have done so at any ISKCON Temple. I now recollected how in 1995, I was a disgruntled youth not able to Join College due to Very Low Marks In 12th class and contemplating on Suicide & it was Srila Prabhupada's Book that had saved the day for me then and in all these 12 years I had forgotten everything being so much engrossed in my work, in my motorcycle, in my computer etc.

I immediately decided to visit the ISKCON Temple of Delhi. This was 27th Sept 2007. I first saw the Vedic Expo and then when I went inside the temple hall and saw the beautiful Deities of Sri Sri Radhaparthasarathi, I was stunned by the beauty and my whole body shivered. This was indeed the real Brahman of the Upanishads. In all these years, Lord Krishna had acted as My Caitya Guru, without the external spiritual Master and had so mercifully withdrawn The Illusionary energy over me.

I immediately surrendered To Their Lord Ships in Full Intelligence and for the 1st time attended the Evening Tulasi & Gaura aarti. Also attended Bhagavad Gita Class and Took Life Membership of ISKCON then and their and for the 1st time bought tulasi mala & japa bag and started doing Japa and Started Devotional Service at Home.

In the History of the temple since 1998, I have visited it only twice in 2004 & 2007, but never have visited their Lord Ships Altars, being just content on purchasing, Bhagavad Gita from the book shop and returning even though I visit Nehru place computer market which is just behind the temple almost twice a week.

But this still did not solve the problem as to why I had attended The Bhava Spandana Program of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev? I was so hooked to the temple that I forgot all about Isha etc. In April 2008 when I read the book The Spiritual Master & The Disciple Obtained with the Life Membership, I was stunned to realize that the purpose of Bhava Spandana Program was to awaken my Krishna Consciousness, to the transcendental sound vibration & I already had been initiated into the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra on the 4th Sept 2007, which was Sri Krishna Janmashtami day and had started doing Japa of 16 rounds from 27th Sept 2007. Being a Sri Vaishnava, I had already been invested, with the sacred thread, at the age of 10 years and had been following the 4 regulative principles by themselves even without my knowing. After becoming aware of the rules for the last 3 years, Tea, Coffee, Onion, Garlic have also been given up.

The Above process proves that whatever has been stated in the Sampradaya Sun <http://www.harekrsna.com/sun/editorials/editorials.htm> in the Past, That No formal initiation diksha ceremony is required and that one only needs to be awakened to the Transcendental Sound Vibration in order to get the seed of devotion planted in his heart by the mercy of The Spiritual Master is Correct & true 100%. Diksha Given To a Madhyama Adhikari is not a Formality!

Lord Krishna and Srila Prabhupada were both testing me if I would reject them & accept Sadhguru as God[In the whole of his ashram no other photo

not even of Lord Siva except that of himself[100% Mayavadi] & they also knew that I would not be willing to surrender myself to any guru other than Sadhguru due to intellects. As I have studied sanskrit till high school, self study and understanding Gita, Bhagavatam have never been difficult for me.

Both Lord Krishna and Srila Prabhupada Initiated me at Such a Place which is completely opposite of Vaishnavism i.e Saivism & Shaktism which only would revive and make my own faith In Vaishnavism more concretised. In Sadhguru's Words "The Fight is between One Man's Belief Vs Other Man's Belief". "A Good Hindu Fights a Good Muslim, A Good Jew Fights a Good Nazi, A Good Indian Fights A Good Pakistani" Similarly A Good Vaishnava Fights a Good Saiva and A Very Good Saktha. "Once You Know Who You Hate then Everything Works" Quote From Movie Death Train By Actor Ted Levine.

At the same time, Lord Sri Krishna knew, that I would have never taken and undergone any formal Initiation Ceremony from any Live Guru in my whole life considering all of them to be Bogus. I had to be initiated 1st without my knowing the same and then given knowledge later and A Guru like Sadhguru who makes fun of Krishna[Words of Sadhguru in his book "Encounter the Enlightened" downloadable free from http://www.2shared.com/document/ojwKcNxW/Encounter_The_Enlightened_Sadh.html?

<http://www.pdf-archive.com/2011/02/09/encounter-the-enlightened-sadhguru-jaggi-vasudev/>

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/48558421/Encounter-the-Enlightened>

"If a man like Krishna were to appear, and walk amongst us now, he would make all our lives a pure misery. Your mother would want to dance with him, your sister would want to chase & play with him. So such a man would be stoned and persecuted and not worshipped now. It was because all this happened 5000 years ago, you can worship him as god. If he appeared now you wouldn't. So your worship is false!] and then asks people to dance to Hare Krishna Maha Mantra would only invoke Bhakti within me and therefore he sent me. The Price I paid for Initiation In terms of the Agony and Pain Suffered For the 3 Days now Seem worth it. Had I simply followed Srila Prabhupada's Instructions in 1995 when I 1st Read His Bhagavad Gita "As It Is" and started Chanting All would have been much easier!

Sadhguru has emphasized that as long as one is in Society he/she has to have the correct mix of all 4 Yoga's Karma, Kriya, Jnana, Bhakti in order to move towards mukti and the Job of The Live Guru is to mix the Right

cocktail otherwise there is no punch. Pure Jnana & Bhakti can be done under the Guidance of Guru Only for full time Sadhakas.

Please note the Timing of my Initiation also! After I finished the course at Sivananda Ashram! In all these years, I never knew who Mayavadi's were nor their philosophy even though I had read about it so many times in the Bhagavad Gita "As It Is". But now I know and hence avoid them. However Sivananda Ashram is not a 100% Mayavadi as the founder emphasized Bhakti[He was called Sankirtan Samrat In Early 1930's] more than Jnana & stressed On Yoga of Synthesis. Even now Morning Aarti for Lord Krishna in Vishwanath Temple is held at 0600 hrs daily at Sivananda Ashram, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, India & Mahamantra Chanting happens 24 hrs a day. This year would be the 67th Anniversary of start of 24 Hrs Akhanda Maha Mantra Japa In Sivananda Ashram Bhajan Kutir. This is about 2 Kms from Madhuban Rishikesh Run by Kirtananda Disciple Bhakti Pada Maharaj.

So Srila Prabhupada is my Vartma Pradarsaksha/1st shiksha and only Diksha Guru, Swami Sivananda The second shiksha[Elevating] guru, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev The Sole & Only Patha Pradarsaksha & Ritvik Representative of the Diksha Guru. I first do Guru Pooja of Sadhguru Then Srila Prabhupada & Then Swami Sivananda. So No Contradiction! Ultimately As Srila Prabhupada has written in his book "The Spiritual Master and The Disciple" that the 1st Siksha Guru Who Constantly Instructs The Disciple Later on Becomes the Diksha Guru of the Disciple is 100% Correct.

Please Note the Achintya Bheda Abheda Philosophy In my Guru's also. Since Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, Revived my Forgotten Krishna Consciousness & Showed me who my actual Guru was he is in once sense my Guru. But in other sense he is not my guru as he simply linked me to the ISKCON Guru Parampara & took me to Srila Prabhupada. Now Srila Prabhupada takes me Back To Lord Krishna.

The words of Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, "Guru is not somebody whom you meet and shake hands with, It is a Certain Space, A Certain Energy Field". "You cannot choose your guru, you just deepen the longing to know, The Guru will choose you". This is completely true in my own case both Siksha as well as Diksha Guru.

Since there is no question of Marriage for me & as I have very deep appreciation for Lord Chaitanya's sublime philosophy that he has given us & I sometimes contemplate on taking Brahmacharya & Sanyasa from his Sampradaya, but Srila Prabhupada & Lord Chaitanya themselves have

rejected this and said that it is better to be in one's own position than take Sanyasa in Kali Yuga.[Article of Mahesh Raja: "Srila Prabhupada On Sanyasa Ashram"]

The Next Option for me is to Take Brahmacharya & Sanyasa from Sadhguru but this process would risk losing my individuality which I do not want. Taking Brahmacharya & Sanyasa from ISKCON is ruled out due to known factors.

Regrettably, I came to know about the Sad State of Prabhupada's ISKCON & its past In July 2009 before Sri Krishna Janmashtami, after seeing Caitanya Dasa's Blog [<http://www.harekrishnadiary.blogspot.com>] and further links. Here also I was saved by Lord Krishna & Srila Prabhupada Since I learnt this Just Before I had decided to Join the Delhi Temple Full Time After purchasing my new laptop in which, I am typing this.

Since My 1st Visit to ISKCON Delhi, I myself could see that no inmate of the temple was truly following the 4 regulative principles sincerely[I am not boasting about my being a Uttama Adhikari, I am not!] and all were just passing time in the temple. Till date it seems that the Zonal Acharya regime is continuing in the temple! I have not associated myself with anybody in the temple and neither will In the Future even though I purchase Srila Prabhupada's Books Pre-1977, In Advance and Distribute Them. It was Krishna's Plan to keep me engrossed in Maya [Motorcycle, Internet, Work, Computer] deliberately to avoid the ISKCON Delhi Temple in all these years from 1995- 2006, as other wise I also would have wasted my youth In the Service of Bogus Guru's. Much damage has happened during this time in ISKCON. It is not that I was unaware of the problems in ISKCON, as previous newspaper articles had shown tremendous sense gratification, criminal activities by ISKCON Guru's and so it was good that I used my Intelligence and avoided the organisation in all these years.

All The Above[Isha, Sivananda Ashram] Was Pr-Arranged and Set For Me By Both Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna In Order To Test my Loyalty towards them! Lord Krishna & Srila Prabhupada Initiated Me in such a way that I need not have any Institutional Loyalties To anyone, No Annual guru dakshina to any Guru, No Vyasa Pooja and Milk Feet Wash For Any Guru. No Bogus Re-Initiation, In Case of Guru Fall Down! Simply Pure Krishna Consciousness with No Strings Attached. In a way this is perfect, considering my own Sri Vaishnava upbringing. A Vishistadvaitin[Ramanuja Follower] neither want to merge himself in Brahman, Nor Does he want to serve the Divine. He Simple wants to enjoy the divine!

I thank everyone on the Sampradaya Sun Site in exposing ISKCON's evils and the GBC corruption for the benefit of others. But it seems there is not going to be any respite for any one. I would advise everyone to simply follow Krishna Consciousness at Home and Blend all the 4 Yoga's for their own growth as per Sadhana Schedule Given By Swami Sivananda in His Book "Essence of Yoga"[Downloadable free from <http://dlshq.org>] like I am doing even though I fully agree that Sankirtan and Bhakti is The easiest and the most effective.

Anybody wanting to communicate with me can send me an e-mail at zaysen2001@rediffmail.com & I shall respond within 24 hrs.

Hare Krishna!
Anirudh C R [Aniruddha Dasa]